

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1-18. Canceled

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The A isolated bacterium of claim 3 wherein said isolated bacterium is *Salmonella typhimurium* or *Salmonella typhi*, and wherein the isolated bacterium comprises three deletion mutations, wherein the isolated bacterium does not express a functional NiFe hydrogenase protein, wherein the isolated bacterium comprises a deletion mutation to each of three NiFe hydrogenase genes present in the genome of the isolated bacterium, wherein each mutation prevents the expression of the corresponding gene product, wherein the first deletion is flanked by nucleotides 1-136 and nucleotides 137-232 of SEQ ID NO:7, wherein the second deletion is flanked by nucleotides 1-289 and nucleotides 290-518 of SEQ ID NO:8, and wherein the third deletion is flanked by nucleotides 1-200 and nucleotides 201-333 of SEQ ID NO:9.~~

20. Canceled

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The A composition of claim 20 comprising an isolated bacterium, wherein the isolated bacterium comprises a mutation to each of three NiFe hydrogenase genes present in the genome of the isolated bacterium, wherein each mutation prevents expression of the corresponding gene product, and wherein the isolated bacterium is *S. typhimurium* strain JSG 321, deposited with the American Type Culture Collection depository~~

22-23. Canceled

24. (Previously Presented) *S. typhimurium* strain JSG 321 deposited with the American Type Culture Collection depository under Accession No: PTA-6556.